

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners ([Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl](mailto:Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl)), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Eirini Sideri
Student number	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities/ Palace	
Main mentor	Daniel Rosbottom	Architectural Design
Second mentor	Matthijs Klooster	Architectural Engineering and Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	From the introduction of the graduation studio, The Palace, it was clear that the studio's structure is based on treating the interior, the building, and the city equally. Usually, the design is based on a linear process going from one scale to the other, while here, the custom-made furniture is examined next to the city's urban development. Through its well-structured methodology on drawings and large-scale models, this studio offers a perspective closer to reality, presenting the realization of every project from the smaller and bigger spectrum.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Stockholm City Library, a common space of the city
Goal	
Location:	Stockholm City Library, Sweden
The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result.	The Library does not fulfill the social and political purpose of a contemporary public library.  What is a public library in the 21st century? How can a building almost 100 years after its construction, address the needs of contemporary society? How do we transform a building with significant architectural qualities?  The design assignment is to transform Stockholm City Library, balancing the remarkable legacy of its architecture and its urban situation to address

contemporary society and future changes.

[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.

The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Stockholm City Library by Erik Gunnar Asplund is the starting point of broader research into public libraries in the 21st century, their social and political purpose, and not only the location of the design assignment. Nowadays, Stockholm City Library and public libraries, in general, are struggling to cope with the constantly evolving demands of society. What is a public library in the 21st century? How can a building, almost 100 years after its construction, address the needs of contemporary society? How do we transform a building with significant architectural qualities? These are the initial research questions triggering a careful study of the existing building, the evolution of the public library as a type, and the architect's oeuvres, leading up to a design proposal for the Stockholm City Library and its direct surroundings.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

[A description of the methods and techniques of research and design, which are going to be utilized.]

During this studio, the research and design are evolving at the same time, enriching one another. The group research was based on the oeuvres of the architect who designed the Stockholm City Library and on general precedents of the public libraries. This part provoked a series of analytical drawings, constituting a valuable tool to examine all of them comparatively. At the same time, part of the research was conducted specifically for the Stockholm City Library and resulted in a large-scale model of the original state of the building, as Erik Gunnar Asplund designed it. While looking at the Stockholm City Library and other Asplund buildings and public libraries simultaneously, we had the chance to compare the findings constantly and, by that to investigate the qualities of the Stockholm City Library and the intentions of the architect.

As mentioned above, the design part of the research started by re-designing Asplund's oeuvres, other public libraries, and the Stockholm City Library. However, the first design project, A Room in a Library, enriched this design-research process. The Room model was the same scale as the Stockholm City Library's interior. This Room embodied Asplund's oeuvres, public libraries, and the Stockholm City Library by highlighting or contradicting certain qualities, from our personal point of view.

## Literature and general practical references

[The literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent you intend to consult.]

Two essays that deal with different things, "Unpacking my Library" by Walter Benjamin and "Complexity and Contradiction vs. Simplification or Picturesqueness" by Robert Venturi, constituted the starting point of thinking of the Stockholm City Library as a contemporary public library beyond any current constraint. The first is about the art of collecting, the qualities embedded in each collection, and the thoughts of a collector. While the other highlights the qualities of contradiction, improvisation, and tension in architecture. While these always remain in the background, heritage reports on the Stockholm City Library and the three adjacent buildings clearly show the different qualities found there. The briefs of the two former competitions conducted for the Stockholm City Library were provided and examined rigorously to position ourselves within the demands of the contemporary library.

A significant experience was the visit to Stockholm. There, we had a chance to experience Stockholm City Library, but also visit other significant buildings and, in general, walk around the city, have a chance to come closer to the city of Stockholm and its people by having discussions with people from different fields of expertise.

The physical model of 1:25 of the Stockholm City Library remains an integral part of the studio. It was the outcome of the research, but it also constitutes a reference for all the discussions throughout the process of transforming the Library.

## Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

Stockholm City Library by Erik Gunnar Asplund has been one of the public libraries' most celebrated and influential manifestations for almost 100 years. The urge to transform this public institution is apparent through the unfruitful architectural competitions of the past decades, composing the studio topic. This graduation project attempts to reinvent the Stockholm City Library by treating this building as an integral part of the City, highlighting a connection that Asplund also intended to do with the landscape formations of Observatory Hill. However, today, both the city and the role of the Library have significantly changed, and this project attempts to create spaces around and within the City and the Library that will trigger parallel reactions.

The aim is to trigger an ongoing transformation process of the City and the Library, revealing that the City is part of the Library and the opposite. Only by zooming in is it possible to understand that every small decision is a statement, a way of triggering the society and transforming its institutions. This way of thinking applies not only to Asplund's Library but also to the contemporary city and the pressing questions of the built environment.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

The cities are already built up with limited possibilities for significant interventions, so the challenge nowadays is to manage the built environment most sustainably while dealing with the ever-changing needs of society. Furthermore, society's attention has been significantly shifted towards public institutions and how they should be formed to include everyone. While libraries are trying to find their way of coexisting in an increasingly digital environment, the graduation project of Stockholm City Library brings together all these issues not only to transform this building but also to provide new insight into transforming a crucial public institution in a way to address contemporary society and future changes.